



RMC

Rural Maryland Council



Amanda Clevenger (RMC Administrative Assistant) staffing the RMC outreach table at the Centreville Farmers Market in Centreville, Maryland on September 27, 2020.

In This Issue...

Greetings!

Fall is upon us! The RMC is currently following the Safer at Home directive for Maryland issued by Governor Larry Hogan due to the coronavirus pandemic. Staff are continuing to telework to continue RMC operations. Look for

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more information in the future on any updates of upcoming state events and meetings as Maryland is beginning Phase Three of its [Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery Plan](#).

The RMC Executive Board held its quarterly fall meeting virtually on Friday, September 25, 2020, 12 pm - 2 pm. The highlights of the meeting included an update on RMC board and committee reports. Our featured guest speaker was Pro Tem Speaker Sheree Sample-Hughes, Maryland House of Delegates. Sample-Hughes shared an overview of the 2021 legislative agenda, budget concerns and the Kirwan Commission Update.

The RMC recently created a short survey to identify the concerns and challenges faced in rural Maryland. The results collected in our [2020 Rural Issue Survey](#) will help the Council to identify trends and target certain planning priorities. Save the date! Our Annual Executive Board meeting and Rural Impact Awards will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Location and time are to be determined. Stay well and safe! As always, we strive to continue to support our rural Maryland communities.

Sincerely,



John Hartline
Chair

Message from the Executive Director

The Rural Maryland Council staff are continuing to telework due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. We hope that everyone is continuing to stay safe and healthy! At the bottom of this newsletter, you will find that we have compiled what we think are the most useful rural focused COVID-19 links and resources.

The RMC Grant Cycle for FY2021 has closed. We would like to thank all of the organizations who applied for our two grant programs the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF). Our grant cycle for FY2022 will open in Spring 2021. View our FY2021 grant awardees [here](#).

Our Rural Impact Awards will be held at our Annual meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. The awards ceremony is an opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations that have performed extraordinary acts of service to communities throughout rural Maryland. Do you know of someone in your community that is doing outstanding work in rural

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Events

[RMC Executive
Committee Meeting](#)

12 pm - 2 pm

11/4/2020

[RMC Annual
Executive Board
Meeting](#)

12/9/2020

TBD

[Rural Maryland
Foundation Meeting](#)

10 am - 12 pm

12/17/2020

RMC In the News

[Now is the time for a
discussion of
inclusion, diversity
and compensation](#)

August 24, 2020

[New Shore Craft Beer
App Launched With
Prize Campaign](#)

September 3, 2020

[Eastern Shore's craft
beer industry at the
center of a new study](#)

October 7, 2020

Maryland? Nominate them for a Rural Impact Award! Our award categories are: Rural Community Volunteer, Rural Champion, Outstanding Rural Economic Development and Outstanding Rural Community Development. Submissions can be made to rmc.mda@maryland.gov.

Thank you for all that you do for our rural communities! Stay healthy and safe! If the Council or I can ever be of any assistance, please contact me at charlotte.davis@maryland.gov or (410) 841-5774.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Davis
Executive Director

Committee Updates



RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee has developed a new [2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#) for the Rural Maryland Council. The next meeting is to be determined.

To learn more about the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov.



RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee will meet sometime this fall to discuss the upcoming 2021 Legislative Session. Meeting date and location is to be determined.

To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov.

Community Links

Check out what's happening in rural Maryland...

[Grant to help pay for Hancock water work](#)
October 9, 2020

[MFA report offers ideas to help revive state forestry](#)
October 9, 2020

[Channel Marker wins \\$23K grant for renovations](#)
October 11, 2020

[Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Holds River Sweep Reimagined](#)
October 12, 2020

[Charles Regional Medical Center Foundation Receives Grant from Rural Maryland Council for Telepharmacy Program](#)
October 23, 2020

Rural Maryland Foundation



Rural Maryland
Foundation

The Rural Maryland Foundation will meet on Thursday, December 17, 2020, 10 am - 12 pm via zoom. View more about the meeting [here](#).

To learn more about the Rural Maryland Foundation, please visit the website at rmdfound@gmail.com

Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [Food Safety Webinar Series](#) - Maryland Farm Bureau - May - November 2020
- [Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program Webinars](#) - Maryland Historical Trust - November 2020 - January 2021
- [Winning SBIR/STTR Proposal Strategies Webinar](#) - Small Business Innovation Research and the Small Business Technology Transfer Programs- November 5, 2020

Awards & Grants

- [CARES Act Funding Available for Maryland Fishing Industry](#) - Department of Natural Resources - Applications due on February 28, 2021

Programs & More

- [New Solar Facility Siting Website](#) - Maryland Department of Planning
- [Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission Releases 'Farms in Focus' Agritourism Industry Video](#) - Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
- [Intergenerational Center Video](#) - Delmarva Community Services

Email: rmc.mda@maryland.gov to share links to your events and programs.

COVID-19 Resources

Please see the links below for general and specific rural COVID-19 information. The following resources can also be found on our regularly updated [website](#).

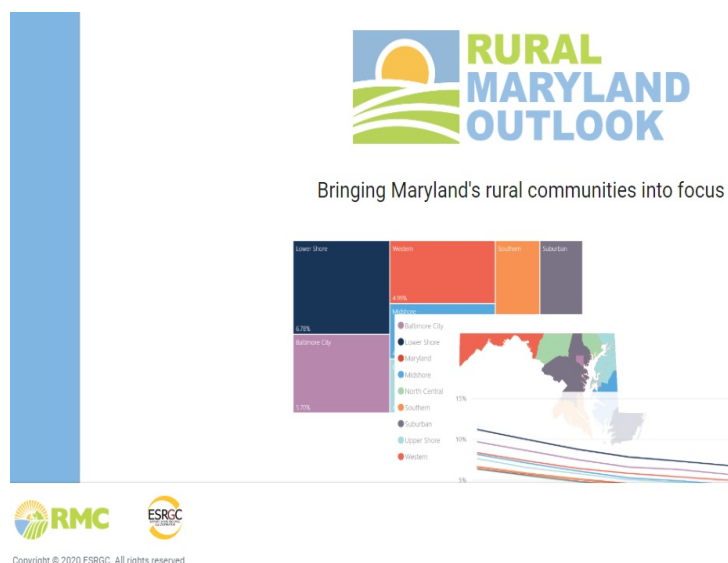
- [United States Rural Development COVID-19 Response](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [COVID-19 Resources Useful for Rural People and Communities](#) - The Aspen Institute
- [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Listing of Federal Programs That Can Help Rural Communities, Organizations, and Residents Impacted by COVID-19](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [COVID-19 Information for SAMHSA Discretionary Grant Recipients](#) - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- [Opioid Treatment Program Guidance for Patients Quarantined at Home with the Coronavirus](#) - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

- [COVID-19 Funding for Minority, Rural and Socially Vulnerable Communities](#) - Office of Minority Health
- [Mental Health during the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) - Maryland Health Connection
- [Health Coverage and the Coronavirus](#) - Maryland Health Connection
- [COVID-19 Health Crisis: Financial Relief Guide for Marylanders](#) - Maryland Department of Labor
- [Maryland Farmer COVID-19 Relief Program](#) - Maryland Department of Agriculture

MAERDAF Spotlight - United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development approved a grant of \$96,000.00

The Frederick Innovative Technology Center received an additional \$165,000.00 of funding from the Rural Maryland Council for Rural Business Development Grants administered by the USDA Rural Development. The grants will help support the development of small and emerging businesses from rural areas in Frederick County and the surrounding rural communities. The [Frederick Innovative Technology Center](#) helps entrepreneurs achieve success by encouraging technological innovation and accelerating the development of commercially viable technology-based entities. The funding will also help with the purchase of new shared biotechnology equipment that will be available to its clients.

Special Feature - Rural Maryland Outlook Dashboard



Rural Outlook is an interactive dashboard designed to showcase key demographics and indicators for each of the state's 18 designated rural communities as well as the six rural regions for the purpose of communicating to law makers and policy makers how rural regions of Maryland are doing individually and collectively both currently and overtime. The state definition of rural is articulated in the and includes 18 of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. Each is represented on the Rural

Maryland Council. View the Rural Outlook Dashboard [here](#).

Rural Maryland Council is an independent state agency and Maryland's federally designated State Rural Development Council under the United States Department of Agriculture's National Rural Development Partnership. Our mission is to bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to develop and implement policy solutions. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates under the guidance of a 40-member Executive Board, in a nonpartisan and non-discriminatory manner.

